

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00218 231851Z

ACTION ARA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13
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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1209

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0218

FOR EMBASSY: POUCH TO CONSULATES IN MEXICO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX, EGEN, CGEN, PINT, SNAR

SUBJ: TELEGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS UPDATE SINALOA

1. CULIACAN'S APRIL 21 EDITION OF "NOROESTE" CARRIED BANNER HEADLINES ANNOUNCING A SERIES OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CULIACAN AND MAZATLAN THE PREVIOUS DAY. FOUR INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN OR NEAR VARIOUS SCHOOLS IN CULIACAN, WERE ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE "LEAGUE OF 23 SEPTEMBER". GOV. CALDERON SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST THE VIOLENCE BY STATING THAT COMMUNIST INSPIRED GROUPS, NAMELY THE "LEAGUE OF 23 SEPTEMBER", ARE TRYING TO CREATE CHAOS IN SINALOA JUST AS THEY DID IN OAXACA. HE CLAIMED THAT STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE SINALOA WERE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENTS BUT SPOKESMEN FOR THE SCHOOLS STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE GOVERNOR WAS MISINFORMED AND STUDENTS WERE NOT INVOLVED. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, SPECIALLY TRAINED ANTI-RIOT TROOPS WERE FLOWN INTO CULIACAN FROM MEXICO CITY TO HELP KEEP THE PEACE. THE STREETS OF CULIACAN ARE PRESENTLY WELL PATROLLED BY THE MILITARY AND THE SITUATION IS REPORTED TO BE CALM. NO NEW INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE WEDNESDAY'S WAVE OF VIOLENCE.

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WM THERE HAS BEEN NO WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN MAZATLAN SUCH AS TOOK PLACE IN CULIACAN. HOWEVER THE COLD BLOODED MURDER OF A WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN WHICH OCCURRED ON APRIL 20, DID BRING AN OUT CRY OF PROTEST FROM LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHO FEEL THAT MAZATLAN'S POLICE FORCE IS ENTIRELY INADEQUATE AND THAT CORRUPTION EXISTS WITHIN ITS RANKS. AT AN APRIL 21 MEETING ATTENDED BY

GOV. CALDERON, CITY OFFICIALS AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE MAYOR WAS TAKEN TO TASK FOR HIS FAILURE TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL POLICE SYSTEM. AS YET NO NEW POLICE CHIEF HAS BEEN NAMED (SEE MAZATLAN'S 0158) AND MAZATLAN'S POLICE FORCE REPORTEDLY HAS NOT BEEN PAID FOR FIVE WEEKS. THE GOVERNOR TOLD THE MAYOR THAT HE MUST DO THE NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTS WITHIN POLICE DEPARTMENT. WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN SPITE OF POLICE CONDITION MAZATLAN IS STABLE.

EL SOL DEL PACIFICO ON APRIL 22 HEADLINED THE STORY OF THE MEETING AND, ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORT, THE GOVERNOR BLAMED THE WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN THE STATE OF SINALOA ON VENGEANCE BY NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF BUSINESS AS A RESULT OF "OPERATION CONDOR". HE MADE NO MENTION OF COMMUNIST INSPIRED GROUPS.
CLARK

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